Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084357 ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CEQ-01 INT-05 EPA-04 EB-08 FEA-01 COME-00 L-03 /039 R

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UNCLAS STATE 084357

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN INPUT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE OFF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM), IS CURRENTLY PREPARING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ON PROPOSED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE OFF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. PROPOSED LEASE SALE, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1978, COM-PRISES 217 TRACTS (459,724 HECTARES) OF SUBMERGED OCS LANDS EXTENDING FROM OFFSHORE POINT CONCEPTION TO OFF-SHORE SAN DIEGO. SHOULD THIS SALE EVENTUALLY BE HELD, IT WILL RESULT IN INCREASED OCS OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING SUCH ACTIVITIES AS DRILLING. PRODUCTION, AND TRANSPORTATION OF OIL AND GAS, AND ON-SHORE DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESSING AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF THESE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR RE-SULTANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WILL BE EXAMINED IN AN EIS, DRAFT OF WHICH IS BEING PREPARED IN BLM'S PACIFIC OCS UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES.

2. PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS THAT OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY RESULTING FROM PROPOSED LEASE SALE COULD RESULT IN POTENTIAL FOR OIL SPILLS WITH POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON MEXICAN WATERS OR COASTLINE. ACCORDINGLY, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT EIS INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF

POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES IN MEXICAN TERRITORY. WE BELIEVE THIS ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO. ACCORDINGLY, AS IN SIMILAR CASES IN CANADA, WE INTEND TO SOLICIT VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IN DESCRIBING POTENTIAL IMPACTS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND SUBJECT TO EMBASSY'S VIEWS, INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN BLM'S PACIFIC OCS OFFICE AND APPROPRIATE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE ARRANGED TO ASSIST BLM'S PREPARATION OF THAT PART OF DRAFT EIS CONCERNED WITH IMPACTS ON MEXICO. FORMAL REQUEST FOR MEXICAN COMMENTS ON COMPLETED DRAFT EIS WOULD BE FORWARDED BY DEPARTMENT THROUGH EMBASSY TO GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE. AS BLM WISHES TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS SHORTLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION SOONEST OF SUGGESTED POINT OF CONTACT VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

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